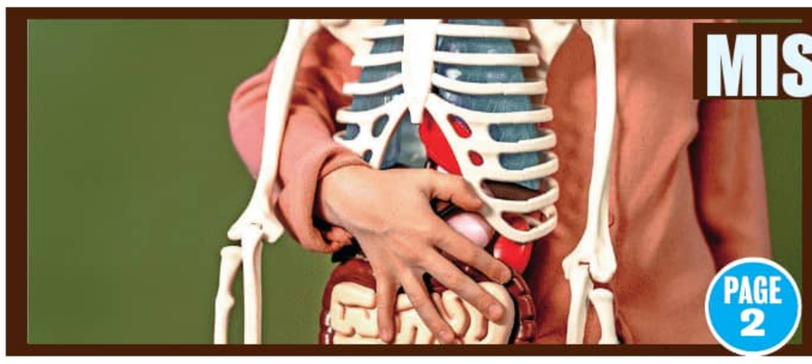
BENGALURU, SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 16 | Humidity 45% Mostly sunny | Sensex 85,762 | Nifty 26,328 | Gold 1,35,766 | Silver 2,35,999 | Dollar 90.11 | Euro 105.72 | GBP 121.44



MISSING PIECE

Though Karnataka is doing well in terms of organ transplants, demand for organs too large to be met; currently state has 5,139 patients on waiting lists

PAGE 2

CUTS DEEP

Majority of Bengalureans unaware of state government's ban on use of Chinese thread or manja coated with glass or harmful substances to fly kites

PAGE 9

New Year assault adds to rising cases of attacks on police; as 1,267 personnel assaulted in 3 years in state, we try to understand what makes people blow their top when caught for a violation

LINE OF DUTY

470 assault cases in 2025 as compared to 384 in 2024

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The arrest of two men, who, while in an inebriated condition allegedly misbehaved and assaulted a police constable on duty during New Year celebrations in the early hours of January 1, is the latest in a string of such attacks on police personnel of late.

Ravi K, a police constable attached to Vidhana Soudha Police Station, was on night patrol duty on New Year's Eve around 1.40 am. Two men allegedly were seen misbehaving with four women waiting for a cab outside a pub near Queen's Road. When the constable intervened and instructed the men to leave the spot, they allegedly turned aggressive. Police said the duo tore the constable's reflector jacket, hit him with their hands and obstructed him from discharging his official duties.

The accused were later brought to the police station, where they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Traffic personnel are usually attacked during drunken driving checks or road rage incidents. In many cases, people try to insist they have done nothing wrong or not violated rules and begin arguing with the police

—Akshay M Hakay, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central)

67% staff shortage at BU

Higher education in doldrums as major universities in city running with more than half of their sanctioned posts vacant

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With 9,292 of the 13,809 sanctioned posts lying vacant, universities in the state are grappling with an alarming staffing crisis. The 67.3% shortage raises serious questions about the quality of higher education. The situation is most alarming in Bengaluru, where key universities are running with near-empty staff strength. Bangalore University has 1,044 vacant posts out of 1,541 sanctioned, a shortage of 67.8%. Bengaluru City University is functioning with just 16 posts filled, with 268 of 284 posts vacant, a staggering 94.4% shortfall. Bengaluru

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

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THINGS TO DO

01 Folk legacy

Kesariya Restaurant presents Dharti Dhora Ri, a folk dance production celebrating the courage and sacrifice of Veer Matha Panna Dhai. The performance brings alive her historic act of devotion in protecting Maharana Uday Singh, symbolising maternal sacrifice and patriotism through traditional dance and music. **Where: Sangeet Sabha, Indira Nagar; When: January 11, 5 pm**

02 Dynamic palette

Sublime Galleria hosts Tranquil Balance, an exhibition by Pragya Jain, co-founder of Artychoke. The collection explores nature's quiet rhythms, celebrating elements that sustain life—air, water, nourishment, love, and growth. **Where: Sublime Galleria, 8th Floor, UB City; When: January 4**

03 Harvest celebration

Celebrate soil, seasons, and sisterhood at Tundu Bhoomi Krushika Mahila Sankranti, honouring Karnataka's women farmers and their traditional knowledge. Enjoy Pongal, folk songs and dances, a drama performance, and meet small and marginalised farmers. **Where: Ragi Kana Santhe, Off Bannerghatta Road; When: January 11, 10 am onwards**

04 Paws, play & love

Celebrate pets and their humans at Pet Fed's 11th edition, India's biggest pet carnival recognised by the Limca Book of Records. Enjoy 100+ stalls, fun contests, interactive workshops, and expert-led training across a sprawling 3-acre venue, honouring the bond of love, paws, and play. **Where: KTPO, Whitefield; When: January 17&18, 11 am to 9 pm**

05 Classical grace

Manjula Amaresh, Director of Bharathaanunada, presents a Bharathanatyam tribute to her Guru, Smt. Shyamala Muralikrishna. Experience an evening of classical dance celebrating tradition and devotion. **Where: Suchitra Film Society, Banashankari 2nd Stage; When: Jan 4, 5.45 pm**

8 die & 5,139 await organ transplants in state

Experts warn low waiting list mortality may signal under-registration missed referrals limited outreach and thousands excluded from formal transplant systems

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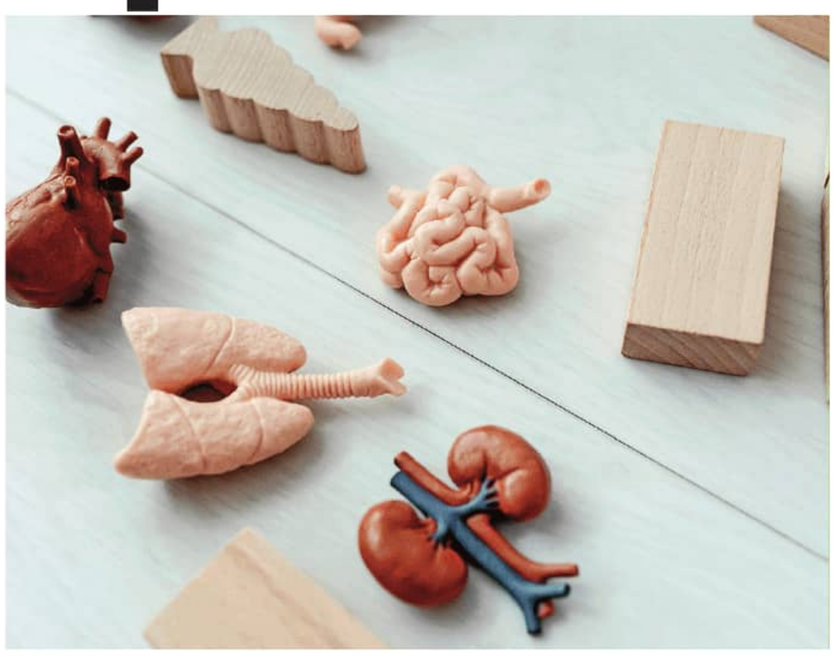

Data presented in Parliament recently paint a complex picture of Karnataka's organ transplant scenario. Between 2020 and 2024, India recorded 2,805 deaths among patients on transplant waiting lists. Karnataka reported eight such deaths, accounting for a fraction of the national toll. While this may appear positive at first glance, experts caution that the figure likely reflects systemic under-registration rather than better outcomes. Many potential recipients may not be reaching the counselling, referral or listing stages, leaving a large number of patients outside the formal system.

By comparison, Delhi reported 1,425 deaths—nearly half the national total—while Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana recorded 297, 233 and 215 deaths respectively. Even smaller regions such as Chandigarh and Goa reported 18 and 10 deaths, both exceeding Karnataka's figure.

Waitlist burden

According to the parliamentary report presented by Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel, Karnataka currently has 5,139 patients on organ transplant waiting lists, representing over six per cent of India's total 82,285 patients, as per the National Registry. Of these, 3,509 are awaiting kidney transplants, 1,097 liver, 348 heart, 163 lung and 22 pancreas procedures.

While states such as Maharashtra (20,553), Tamil Nadu (9,166) and Delhi (8,853) dominate national figures, Karnataka's position underscores its significant demand for life-saving organs. Experts say the data highlights the urgent need to strengthen awareness campaigns, expedite donor–recipient matching and expand hospital capacity to meet rising demand. Between 2020 and 2024, Karnataka performed 3,611 organ transplants, nearly five per cent of the 72,993 procedures conducted across India during the same period. Kidney transplants accounted for the majority at 2,495, followed by liver (873), heart (154), lung (74) and pancreas (15) transplants.

Parliamentary disclosures show thousands queued for kidneys, livers, hearts and lungs, exposing pressure on hospitals, donor matching delays and uneven referral pathways across regions

Delhi topped the country with 15,750 organ transplants, followed by Tamil Nadu (10,098), Maharashtra (7,514) and Telangana (5,566), underscoring sharp regional disparities. Several smaller states and Union Territories, including Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura, recorded fewer than 50 procedures. Karnataka's numbers point to improving medical infrastructure, but also highlight the need for stronger donor awareness and hospital outreach to ensure equitable access.

In corneal transplants, Karnataka emerged as a leading performer, completing 11,092 keratoplasty procedures between 2020–21 and 2024–25—nearly eight per cent of India's total 137,761 surgeries. The state narrowly edged past Maharashtra (11,081) and trailed only Tamil Nadu (16,353) and Telangana (15,335). Delhi logged 12,727 procedures, while Andhra Pradesh (10,472) and Madhya Pradesh (8,472) also made significant contributions. Smaller states and Union Territories such as Goa, Mizoram, Tripura and Dadra and Nagar Haveli reported fewer than 150 surgeries, highlighting persistent regional gaps.

Systemic challenges

A health expert said Karnataka shows progress in transplants but gaps in awareness, registration and referrals persist. Even one waiting-list death signals the need for stronger public education, better hospital coordination and improved donor–recipient matching to ensure equitable care.

Karnataka sets new organ donation record

Karnataka has set a new benchmark in organ donation, with Karnataka SOTTO facilitating 198 donations in 2025—the highest ever recorded in the state. The figure surpasses the previous record of 178 donations achieved in 2023 and places Karnataka third nationally this year. Officials credit improved coordination, awareness and timely interventions for the steady rise. Tamil Nadu topped the national chart with 267 donations, followed by Telangana with 205, while Karnataka followed closely with 198. Maharashtra and Gujarat recorded 153 and 152 donations respectively.

KEA eases CET stress with reforms

CET aspirants can expect a smoother ride this year, with KEA rolling out a set of student-friendly changes ahead of the 2026 exams scheduled for April 23 and 24. From a clear-cut examination timetable to a new pocket-sized guidebook explaining the entire admission journey, the authority is betting on greater clarity and fewer last-minute hassles for students and parents. A key change is allowing CET applications to be filled in at the college level, reducing dependence on cyber centres and cutting down errors. KEA will train lecturers to guide students, while help desks will be set up in government and aided engineering colleges during option entry. With Bengaluru home to one of the largest pools of CET candidates, the revamped process aims to make the high-stakes entrance examination less stressful and more transparent. **— BMB**

Panel backs period leave for students

A one-day menstrual leave for school and college students could soon be on the government's agenda. The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has said it will recommend extending the period leave currently available to women employees to girl students as well. The assurance came after students flagged the issue during a public interaction. Commission member Aparna M Kolla said students face similar physical challenges and that the demand is valid, though the final decision rests with the state government. With the panel set to submit its recommendation soon, the proposal is likely to spark wider debate on student welfare and menstrual health in educational institutions. **— BMB**

Brushstrokes before Chitra Santhe

An artist gives the final touches ahead of the 23rd annual Chitra Santhe exhibition at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat premises in Bengaluru on Saturday

Marriage con: 'Guru' in dock

A 21-year-old woman has registered a complaint alleging that a guruji duped her of ₹2.05 lakh by a man posing as a spiritual advisor who promised to help her get married.

According to the complaint filed at the police station, the complainant came across an advertisement on Instagram while browsing the platform. The ad, posted by one Chandrashekhar Sugat Guruji, claimed to offer financial assistance and solutions to personal problems.

Curious, the complainant contacted the number mentioned in the advertisement. During the conversation, Guruji allegedly assured her that she would get married but said the process would be expensive. Trusting his claims, the complainant agreed and transferred money in multiple instalments between December 5 and December 16, 2025. The payments, totalling ₹2,05,803, were made through his mobile number and with the help of a mobile shop, to Chandrashekhar's mobile number. However, when the complainant later followed up regarding the promised marriage, Guruji allegedly avoided giving clear answers. On being asked to return the money, the accused reportedly refused and issued threats, stating that he would not refund the amount.

The complainant approached the police. **BMB**

Panic dash ends in arrest

A routine patrol on 4th Main Road in Jayamahal turned dramatic on Friday, when a man wearing a red turban fled from his autorickshaw after he saw police officers, triggering a brief chase and a human story of fear, flight, and surrender.

According to the police, officers noticed suspicious movement inside an autorickshaw and stopped it for inquiry. The driver, later identified as Waseem (40), a resident of Shivajinagar, appeared visibly nervous. Before the questioning could proceed, he allegedly jumped out of the vehicle, ran into a park, and threw away packets suspected to contain ganja and other drugs before escaping.

Police immediately checked and recovered the discarded packets from the park. Initial examination confirmed the presence of ganja, and around 2 grams were seized on the spot. A search was launched for the suspect, even as officers traced the autorickshaw details. Several hours later, Waseem walked into the police station and surrendered. During questioning, he reportedly admitted to panicking during the check and fleeing without thinking of the consequences. He told the police he works as an autorickshaw driver and fled in panic, claiming he is a drug consumer and not involved in peddling. **BMB**

AI monitors crowds, ensures safe New Year

Police leverage advanced cameras, face recognition, and analytics to manage festive gatherings and prevent potential emergencies

With no fire, smoke, or critical unattended object incidents reported during the celebrations, Bengaluru Police successfully ensured safe, secure, and well-coordinated New Year festivities across the city by leveraging the AI-powered Bengaluru Safe City infrastructure.

During the New Year's Eve celebrations, Bengaluru witnessed large public gatherings at prominent locations including MG Road, Church Street, Opera Junction, Indiranagar, and Koramangala.

Over 200 Safe City and community cameras were monitored from 6 pm on December 31 to 3 am on January 1, through an integrated Command and Control Centre. The surveillance system, implemented by Honeywell and powered by the Awiros AI platform, enabled real-time monitoring using bullet and PTZ cameras equipped with advanced Vision AI applications.

Over 200 cameras monitored key city spots on New Year's Eve. Heatmaps, traffic alerts, and predictive AI tools ensured smooth crowd flow, mitigated congestion, and maintained public safety, while no emergencies or suspicious activities were reported

The Face Recognition System was activated at sensitive locations to match faces against police watchlists, with all alerts verified in accordance with standard procedures. Police reported that no suspicious movements or high-risk individuals were detected. Crowd estimation tools, heatmaps, and flow monitoring helped identify congestion points early, allowing timely crowd regulation and traffic diversions.

Additional AI applications, such as abandoned object detection, fire and smoke alerts, and person attribute analysis, further enhanced situational awareness. Traffic management was strengthened using ANPR, wrong-way detection, and parking violation alerts, helping to prevent bottlenecks and accidents.

Police officials stated that the technology-driven approach enabled predictive and preventive policing, ensuring peaceful celebrations while maintaining public safety. **BMB**

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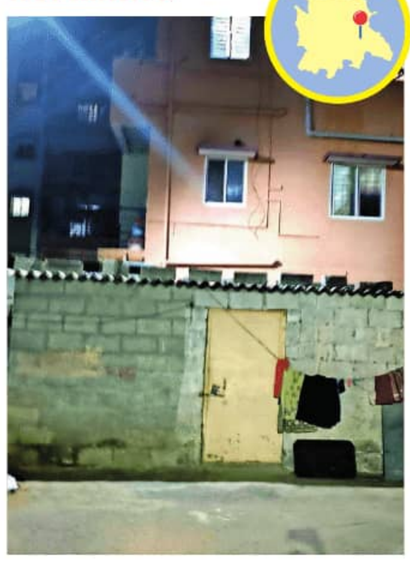
Safety risk

Rajajinagar

Open junction near Theresa's Hospital and DRAPES India on Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage has loose electric wires, creating a serious hazard for pedestrians and vehicles.

Road misuse

Horamavu



For the past 10 years, the dead-end road at 1st Main, Chinnaswampappa Layout, Horamavu has been illegally used as a private space for personal activities.

Urgent action

RR Nagar

BESCOM's inaction has left cut branches uncleared for over a month, and residents demand GBA intervention at 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, 1st Phase, 5th Stage, BEML Layout, HV Halli, RR Nagar.

SPOTLIGHT

Understanding preparation and outcomes in robotic joint replacement

When knee pain begins to disrupt daily life, surgery may be necessary. Here's what patients need to know

Dr Prashanth R
Head of Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement, Trilife Hospital

For many individuals living with persistent knee or hip discomfort, the journey towards seeking medical attention is neither immediate nor straightforward. People often begin by adjusting their routines, avoiding long walks, using railings for support, or quietly enduring stiffness during daily tasks. By the time they approach an orthopaedic surgeon, they have not only lived with prolonged discomfort but also accumulated a series of doubts.

It is important to address these questions with clarity, grounding them in evidence and contemporary surgical practice.

HOW DOES KNEE ARTHRITIS LIMIT FUNCTION, AND HOW DOES REPLACEMENT ADDRESS IT?

Knee arthritis gradually affects the way individuals move through their day. Persistent pain, swelling, and stiffness initially slow routine tasks—such as getting up from a chair, climbing stairs, or walking short distances—and can eventually limit a person's independence.

Total Knee Replacement (TKR) addresses these challenges by replacing the worn joint surfaces with precisely engineered implants, reducing pain and restoring smoother movement. TKR reliably improves quality of life and functional scores, enabling patients to resume daily routines with greater comfort.

WHAT SHOULD PATIENTS DO BEFORE AND AFTER SURGERY FOR OPTIMAL RESULTS?

Before surgery, maintaining overall fitness, managing weight, and optimising chronic health conditions help reduce risks. Research confirms that pre-operative strengthening and structured conditioning improve post-operative outcomes and may shorten hospital stays. After surgery, adhering to a prescribed rehabilitation programme enhances mobility and accelerates recovery.

DOES EVERY KNEE REPLACEMENT REQUIRE REPLACING THE WHOLE JOINT?

Not all arthritis affects the knee uniformly. Because the joint consists of three compartments, surgeons may perform a partial (unicompartmental) knee replacement when degeneration is limited to one region. This technique preserves healthy bone and ligament structures, enabling faster recovery and more natural knee movement.

CAN A KNEE EVER FEEL 'NORMAL' AFTER REPLACEMENT?

Most patients experience a marked reduction in pain and significant improvement in mobility after TKR. Many regain the ability to walk comfortably, climb stairs, and perform activities that have become challenging. Satisfaction rates are high in long-term follow-ups when proper patient selection and rehabilitation protocols are followed.

Modern knee replacement techniques offer predictable and meaningful relief for patients with advanced arthritis. With timely intervention and disciplined rehabilitation, joint replacement can serve as a pathway back to confident, independent movement.

Disclaimer: This content is for public awareness only and does not constitute medical advice. Please consult a qualified healthcare professional for diagnosis or treatment. Expert opinions are personal and do not imply endorsement.

Uranium, manganese threatens Devanahalli groundwater safety

Groundwater in Bengaluru North and Devanahalli shows elevated manganese, uranium, and nitrate levels, posing serious health hazard and requiring urgent monitoring

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Groundwater in Avathi and Kodagurki A villages in Devanahalli and Gollahalli village in Bengaluru North taluk is facing a serious threat due to manganese and uranium contamination, the Central Groundwater Board has highlighted in a recent report.

High levels of manganese, more than 0.3 mg/L, and elevated uranium levels, above 30 ppb, were found in groundwater samples from both Devanahalli and Bengaluru North taluks. While anomalous manganese levels have been attributed to intensified groundwater extraction, elevated uranium concentrations, according to the CGWB, point towards the influence of geogenic factors and local hydrogeochemical conditions in uranium mobilisation, underscoring the need for region specific assessments beyond extraction status alone.

Bangalore Mirror
Toxic traces rising silently: Is your groundwater safe?

BM reported worsening groundwater contamination in Bengaluru

Pre monsoon post monsoon tests show worsening groundwater quality

Report shows manganese levels exceed permissible limits while uranium mobilisation linked to hydrogeochemical conditions demands region specific groundwater management

"Elevated uranium levels are not solely linked to the degree of groundwater exploitation. Instead, they suggest the influence of geogenic factors and local hydrogeochemical conditions in uranium mobilisation, emphasising the need for region specific assessments beyond extraction status alone," the CGWB noted in its report, which provides insights into groundwater quality not only in Bengaluru but across Karnataka during 2024.

The Central Ground Water Board has been monitoring groundwater quality in Bengaluru and across Karnataka through a network of dug well monitoring stations distributed in all districts.

Groundwater samples were tested at fourteen locations. Apart from manganese and uranium contamination, anomalous nitrate levels exceeding 45 mg/L were detected at one or more locations in Devanahalli, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru North and Bengaluru South taluks.

Groundwater quality was evaluated through sampling and analysis of water collected from monitoring wells during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods in 2024.

Across Karnataka, around 317 groundwater samples were tested for basic parameters and 129 samples were tested for trace metals during the pre-monsoon season, while 324 basic samples and 128 trace metal samples were analysed during the post monsoon season as part of routine monitoring exercises conducted statewide.

Police honoured for spotless NYE duties

Bengaluru City Police will felicitate officers and staff who performed exemplary bandobast duties during the 2026 New Year celebrations, with a focus on public safety, particularly the safety of women and young people.

The Commissioner of Police, Seemanth Kumar Singh, IPS, held the first felicitation ceremony on January 3, 2026 at the Conference Hall of the Office of the Commissioner of Police. Officers and staff from the Central Division, VVIP Division, City SB Division, and Vidhana Soudha Security Division will receive commendation certificates for their effective service.

Subsequent ceremonies are scheduled across the city over the next few days to recognise various divisions: on January 5, CAR, Traffic West and South, North, North-West, West, East, and North-East Divisions; on 6 January, CCB Division, Command Centre, and Control Room; and on January 7, Traffic North and East, South and South-West, and Electronic City, Whitefield, and South-East Divisions.

Through these ceremonies, Bengaluru Police aim to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of personnel who ensured smooth and safe New Year celebrations across the city. — BMB

21-year-old arrested for PG attack

Soladevanahalli police have arrested a 21-year-old man for allegedly harassing a doctor, 17 days after the incident. Officials said there was a delay in tracking the accused as his vehicle did not have a number plate.

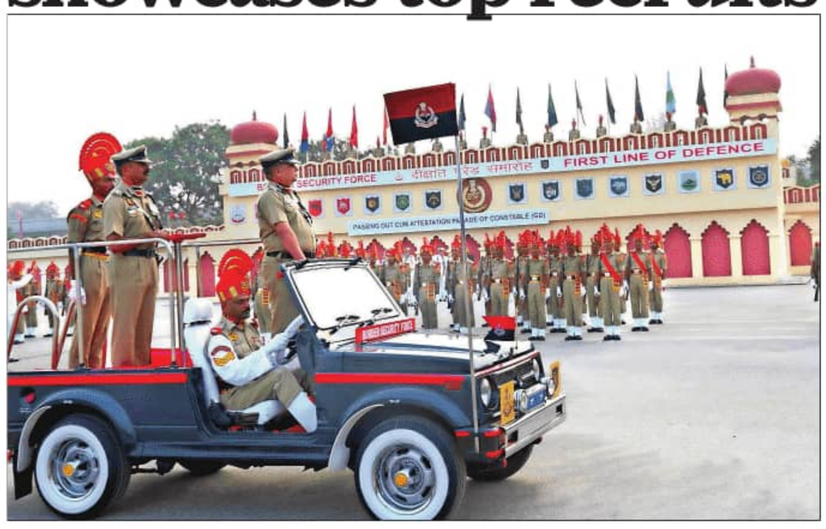
The accused, Rakesh from Tumakuru, was identified through CCTV footage, interrogated, and produced before the court, which remanded him in judicial custody and sent him to Parappana Agrahara Jail.

According to police, the incident occurred on the morning of December 17, when the doctor was leaving for her paying guest accommodation after completing her duty. Rakesh, who met her near the PG, reportedly approached the doctor under the pretext of asking for directions to the bus stand. Out of fear, she provided the information and offered to open the gate. The accused, who had stopped his two-wheeler nearby, allegedly touched her inappropriately. The doctor screamed, prompting him to flee the scene.

Authorities confirmed that Rakesh has no prior criminal record and resides in Bengaluru with his mother. Police added that he had been en route to Chikkabanavara to meet an acquaintance when the incident occurred.

The entire incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed near the PG hostel. The footage shows the accused approaching the victim on a scooter and speaking to her before moving away. He then takes a U-turn, walks towards her again, and embraces her, touching her inappropriately despite her resistance and screams. He is later seen running away as the victim raises her voice loudly. — BMB

Passing-Out parade showcases top recruits



A Passing-Out cum Attestation Parade of 371 Constable (GD) trainees of Batch Nos. 606 and 607 was held at the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC), BSF, Bangalore, on Saturday morning. The parade was reviewed by Sh Dinesh Kumar Yadav, IPS, IG STC, BSF, Bangalore, who took the salute and commended the recruits for their precision, discipline, and smart turnout.

A large number of family members attended the parade to witness their wards' milestone achievement. Sh. Yadav congratulated the passing-out recruits and presented medals to the top performers of the training batches. From Batch 606, Bhaben Boro was awarded Overall 1st, Keshav Sharma 2nd, Vishal Suchiang Best Firer, Mukesh Mundel Best in Endurance, and Avijit Mandal Best in Drill. From Batch 607, Shankar Jitender Singh secured Overall 1st, Manish Dehru 2nd, Jangere Dipak Rajendra Best Firer, Lilhare Akash Radheshyam Best in Endurance, and Debabrata Singha Best in Drill.

STC, BSF, Bangalore, a Centre of Excellence certified under ISO 9001:2015, provides rigorous training in physical fitness, weapons, unarmed combat, field craft, intelligence, law, and personality development. The centre also trains personnel from state police forces, IRB, RPF, CISF, and even the Nepal Armed Police.

Since its raising in 1965, the BSF has been at the forefront of border security, counter-insurgency, anti-Naxal operations, and disaster response, earning over 4,000 medals, including gallantry and distinguished service awards. Today, the Force comprises over 2.70 lakh personnel, making it the largest border-guarding force in India. — BMB

Plaint against R Ashoka over Kogilu remark

A complaint has been lodged with the Karnataka State Minorities Commission against Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka for allegedly making inflammatory remarks targeting minority communities during his visit on January 1, to the demolished Kogilu slum in Fakir Layout. The complaint, filed by a concerned citizen, cites Ashoka's statements demanding a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the settlement and alleging that residents could be sleeper cells, as well as claims linking them to unrest in Bangladesh. He also accused the Siddaramaiah-led government of "creating a mini Bangladesh in Karnataka" and alleged manipulations in official records favouring certain residents.

According to the complainant, these statements promote enmity between communities, stigmatise vulnerable minorities, and constitute hate speech under relevant sections of the BNS, including incitement to public mischief and deliberate acts outraging religious feelings.

The complaint requests the Commission to initiate an inquiry, direct police to register an FIR, and recommend protective measures for affected residents. It also urges public figures to refrain from hate speech targeting minorities. — BMB

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Shuka Vana Mysuru emerges as Asia's premier parrot sanctuary

Guinness record-holding aviary shelters rescued parrots, promotes ethical care, educates visitors, and becomes Mysuru's most loved wildlife attraction

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Macaws and other parrots perch inside Shuka Vana's spacious enclosures, designed to encourage natural flying, climbing and social behaviour

From rescued macaws to rare lorikeets, Shuka Vana blends conservation, science and visitor education, offering bird lovers an immersive experience inside a forest-like haven where parrots thrive

It's a must-see on the list of the tourists travelling to the royal city. Winner of the Guinness world record, Shuka Vana is globally recognized as one of the best aviaries in Asia. The Aviary, home to more than 250 species of Parrots, including the small Lorikeet and the majestic Hyacinth Macaw and other exotic birds is a big draw, hundreds of bird lovers and Twitchers from all across the globe, queuing up each day to gain an entry into the best Indian avian sanctuary located in Mysuru.

The name Shuka Vana is symbolic. `Shuka' refers to parrots and birds in Sanskrit and Vana means forest or natural habitat. In total the name signifies a forest-like sanctuary created for birds. The idea behind Shuka Vana was to provide home and shelter to many exotic birds and parrots, alarmingly displaced, injured or kept in unsuitable conditions by illegal bird traders. What started as a small safety and care centre for birds in 2014 has rapidly evolved into a comprehensive world class aviary recommended by leading global ornithologists.

Established under the guidance of renowned environmentalist Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, Shuka Vana offers a calm and regulated atmosphere where different bird families coexist peacefully. Macaws, cockatoos, lories and other psittacine species thrive in open spaces, with enclosures designed to encourage natural behaviours such as flying, climbing and perching. Shaded areas and varied textures mimic forest conditions, allowing birds to adapt comfortably to Mysuru's climate while ensuring adequate light, ventilation and greenery. This design approach is widely appreciated by both birds and visiting birders.

What sets the facility apart is its unmatched diversity. According to Dr K Poojitha, laboratory in-charge, the aviary houses a record 250 parrot species that have adapted well to local conditions. She said ethical care remains central, with regular health monitoring, balanced nutrition and prompt medical attention. Identifying an injured or ill bird within vast open enclosures is challenging, she noted, but essential. The facility maintains three in-house veterinarians, supported by additional doctors on call, along with nearly 60 trained caretakers working across the sanctuary.

Nutrition plays a critical role in avian wellbeing. Birds are provided predominantly vegetarian diets consisting of fruits, vegetables, grains, sprouts and nuts, along with limited natural supplements. Diets are carefully planned to account for the preferences and requirements of different species. While the process was initially demanding, systems are now streamlined, and no compromises are made on food quality or nutritional balance.

Beyond the spectacle of thousands of birds in flight, the aviary places strong emphasis on public education. Visitors receive guidance on responsible pet ownership and the ecological roles birds play in natural systems. Bird enthusiasts are also cautioned against the illegal bird trade. Officials warn that many exotic parrots sold in pet shops are sourced unethically and kept in poor conditions, urging the public to avoid such practices.

Each day, long queues form outside the sanctuary, drawing tourists and bird lovers from India and abroad. Visitors are rewarded with the sight of over 2,500 birds flying, perching, singing and vocalising in an environment designed around their needs. Shuka Vana has emerged as a principal attraction alongside Mysuru's historic palaces, reinforcing the city's growing reputation as a centre for ethical wildlife conservation and responsible tourism, while continuing its core mission of rescue, rehabilitation and lifelong care for displaced birds from across diverse global regions.

Just 16 posts in BCU filled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

North University is close behind, with 152 vacancies out of 162 sanctioned posts, or 93.8% shortage. Aditya KA, a student said, "When there are not enough lecturers, classes get cancelled, doubts remain unanswered, and our education suffers despite our efforts to learn."

According to the data presented in the legislature recently, Dr B R Ambedkar University and Nripathunga University have reported a 100% shortage, with all sanctioned posts vacant. Ambedkar University has 66 out of 66 posts vacant, while Nripathunga University has 143 vacancies out of 143 sanctioned posts, leaving both institutions without permanent teaching or non-teaching staff.

Across Karnataka, 2,997 teaching posts out of 4,702 are vacant, a shortage of 63.7%, while 6,295 of 9,107 non-teaching posts remain unfilled, pushing the non-teaching shortage to 69.1%. Major universities such as Karnatak University Dharwad and Mangalore University also report vacancies running into hundreds. A former vice-chancellor said, "Prolonged vacancies are affecting admissions, examinations and academic quality, with Bengaluru universities bearing the brunt of the crisis due to rising student strength and limited staffing."

8 V-C posts lying vacant

As many as eight vice chancellor posts are currently vacant in Karnataka universities, including Karnataka State Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Bengaluru North University and Maharani Cluster University, with the vacancies notified on February 21, 2025, December 1, 2025 and November 9, 2025 respectively, while Mandya University and Nrupatunga University have been without full-time vice chancellors since November 9, 2024 and November 15, 2024.

Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar said, "The government has invited applications for some of these posts, receiving 15 applications in one case and 72 in another, and search committees were constituted on April 1, 2025 for select universities. As per the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, nominations from the Governor, the university concerned and the state government are required to complete the process, with the government nomination still pending in several cases." Meanwhile, in the interest of academic and administrative continuity, in-charge vice chancellors have been appointed even as the recruitment process is ongoing.

Traffic police bear the brunt during drunk driving checks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allegedly continued their unruly behaviour, misbehaved with station staff and refused to cooperate with the investigation. They also reportedly insulted and obstructed the investigating officer.

This comes after two such incidents in December and early January, in which intoxicated motorists obstructed or even assaulted police personnel during enforcement drives. According to Karnataka state police data, 1,267 police personnels have been assaulted during the investigation or during a special drive in the past three years.

On average, nearly 400 police personnel across the state are assaulted each year. The number of such cases stood at 470 in 2025, compared to 384 in 2024 and 413 in 2023. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Akshay M Hakay said that both civil and traffic police officials face assaults almost equally, though traffic police tend to bear the brunt slightly more often.

"Traffic personnel are usually attacked during drunken driving checks or road rage incidents. In many cases, people try to insist they have done nothing wrong or not violated rules and begin arguing with the police," the DCP said.

In contrast, civil police officials are more likely to be assaulted while attempting to arrest accused persons, who may sometimes be armed with sharp objects or other weapons. Hakay noted that nearly 80% of people understand that once a case is registered they must cooperate with the police.

However, the remaining 10 to 20% create problems, he said. "This group often includes individuals who are mentally unstable, those experiencing withdrawal symptoms, or people with an inflated sense of self-importance. There are also some who believe they are above the law, including arrogant and so-called elite or highly educated individuals who lack basic civic sense. These are extreme cases," he added.

A few days ago for a 28-year-old private firm employee allegedly set his motorcycle on fire outside the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station after it was seized when he was found riding under the influence of alcohol on Saturday night.

According to the police, the incident occurred on December 27 around 11.17 pm, following a drunken driving check conducted at Kavika Junction on Mysore Road.

The accused, identified as Venkatesh, was stopped while riding a bike and was found to be under the influence of alcohol during a breath analyser test. The alcohol content reportedly measured 367 mg per 100 ml, far exceeding the permissible limit.

Police officials said Venkatesh allegedly threatened the on-duty personnel and refused to accept the notice issued to him.

After his two-wheeler was seized and parked in front of the traffic police station, he left the premises. However, a short while later, he allegedly returned and set the motorcycle on fire before fleeing the spot.

Police staff, along with members of the public, managed to douse the flames.

Based on a complaint, an FIR has been registered under relevant sections for assault on public servants and mischief by fire.

Meanwhile, police also arrested two private firm employees, Jayatheertha and Vishnu, for assaulting traffic police during a separate drunk-driving check. They have been remanded to judicial custody.

Several incidents over the past year have highlighted growing attacks on police personnel during routine duties. In Chandra Layout, a Police Sub-Inspector and a constable were assaulted during a surprise bar raid, with the accused snatching their mobile phones before fleeing.

In Parappana Agarahara, three private firm employees were arrested for attacking an ASI and a constable after being warned against creating a late-night nuisance.

During a festival procession near Lingarajapuram, two constables and a woman home guard were assaulted while trying to pacify warring groups. In another incident in KR Puram, a woman PSI was manhandled during a drunk driving check.

SUNDAY READ

Walk the line...

R Prashanth Vidyasagar takes us on a walk along a footpath in CV Raman Nagar. This is how it goes

The footpath along Kaggadasapura Main Road in CV Raman Nagar is still there. It has not vanished. It hesitates. It starts, stops, narrows, sinks, reappears. Walking here is possible, but only if you are alert, patient, and willing to adjust every few steps.

This is a busy neighbourhood that mostly works. Homes, offices, hospitals, shops, all compressed into a narrow corridor. Garbage is the constant companion. It fills the gaps where the footpath breaks. It collects where people decide the ground belongs to no one. What keeps this stretch from tipping over is daily, unpaid effort by the GBA (erstwhile BBMP). Cleaned in the morning. Soiled again by night.

The problem here is not invisibility. It is familiarity. Everyone sees it. Everyone steps around it. Civic sense is not missing. It is selectively switched off.

We walked roughly 2.5 kilometres. POV only. No officials. No activists. No quotes. Just what a walker sees when the city decides walking is optional.

Kaggadasapura Main Road
Ward No: 57 CV Raman Nagar

FRAME BY FRAME

Biryani

Gas cylinders and cooking vessels placed on the footpath. Open flames where feet should land. Eating dangerously is now just eating.

Chairs

Plastic chairs arranged like a product display. The footpath is the showroom. The road is the aisle.

Construction

Property cleared. Footpath slabs broken in the process. No repair. No apology. Just exposed edges.

Construction Material

Drain works underway. Sand, debris dumped straight onto the road. Dust replaces air. AQI spikes quietly.

Food Stalls

Mini VV Puram energy. Hunger is valid. Location is not. The footpath becomes a food court by force.

Footpath No Light

A raised foothpath nearly four feet high. No railing. No lighting. One wrong step equals broken bones. Night walking is roulette.

Garbage Near DRDO

Inside the wall: discipline. Outside the wall: daily dumping. Cleaned every morning. Ruined every evening.

Hospital

Emergency services cited as entitlement. Footpath absorbed into parking and access space.

Juice Stall

Best visibility is where people walk. So build there. Permanently.

Nameboard

A garbage chute disguised as a pathway near the railway crossing. Signage blocks what little width remains.

Nursery

The newest trend. Plants for sale on roads and footpaths. Green, illegal, expanding.

Pizza

Faster delivery justifies public inconvenience. Everyone else adjusts.

Pots + Stench

Broken toilet pots left in place. The corner becomes a urinal. The footpath becomes unusable.

Signage

Attention grabbed by obstruction.

Vegetable Stalls

Fresh produce lines the footpath. Customers spill onto the road. Walkers are erased.

Vehicles

Two-wheelers. Cars. End to end. Final proof that walking was never the priority.

This road survives on adjustment. On people moving aside. On diligent Pourakarmikas returning every day to the same spots. On walkers stepping into traffic and back again without protest.

The footpath exists, but only where behaviour allows it to. Garbage appears not because there is no system, but because ignoring the system has become normal. What the GBA maintains, the street tests daily.

This is not a story of absence. It is a story of choice. Of how public space becomes exactly what its users are willing to take responsibility for, and nothing more.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

FLEETING GARDEN ELEGANCE

Our reader shares an enchanting image of a white mushroom rising from a carpet of coral bead seeds in a quiet corner of the garden. Chosen as a delicate addition to the drawing-room décor, it captures fleeting beauty, even as its brief life is acknowledged.

The picture was clicked by reader **P Suryanarayana**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

East Bengaluru set for green revival with 65-acre tree park

Former NGEF factory land at Baiyappanahalli will transform into phased public park with preserved trees, culture hubs and innovation spaces

At a time when Bengaluru is gasping for open spaces, the city is set to get a major green relief in east Bengaluru. A 65-acre Tree Park will be developed on the former NGEF factory land at Baiyappanahalli, with the first phase scheduled to open to the public by March, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil announced on Saturday. The proposed Tree Park will be developed on 65 acres out of the total 119 acres that earlier belonged to the State-owned NGEF factory. The Minister inspected the site and reviewed the progress of ongoing works, accompanied by senior officials from multiple departments.

Speaking to the media, Patil said the Tree Park would be developed in four phases — Phase 1, Phase 1A, Phase 1B and Phase 2 — at an overall estimated cost of ₹37.75 crore. The government has already released ₹11.50 crore for Phase 1 works, while Phase 1A is expected to be completed within the next six months. The site currently has around 8,500 trees of different species, with their scientific names displayed as part of an educational initiative. He stressed that not a single tree would be felled for the project, adding that a scientific assessment would determine the future of eucalyptus trees on the premises.

Patil said existing administrative buildings and industrial sheds within the NGEF campus are structurally sound, based on an assessment by scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, and will be refurbished and repurposed instead of demolished. As part of the broader redevelopment, a multi-level parking facility for 5,000 to 7,000 vehicles will be built on 4.5 acres of factory-owned land outside the compound.

Two convention centres with seating capacities of at least 15,000 each will be developed in existing electric motor sheds, while an incubation centre named 'Innoverse' will be set up by the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society. The IT-BT Department will also establish a Technology Innovation Museum at an estimated cost of ₹100 crore. The park will include a sculpture park, an NGEF museum and a modern amphitheatre, with no shopping mall planned.

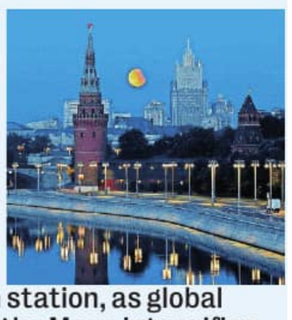
Phase 1 will feature an entrance plaza, elevated walkways, cycling tracks, water features, a food court, play areas, pet-friendly zones and basic amenities. Phase 1B, costing ₹26.23 crore, will add more walkways, an observation tower, renovation of the administrative block and an open amphitheatre. Phase 2 will redevelop old sheds into sports, cultural and community spaces through a public-private partnership.

Phase 2 will redevelop old sheds into sports, cultural and community spaces through a public-private partnership.

Officials said discussions are also under way with Namma Metro to secure a small parcel of land required for the park's entrance. Once completed, the project is expected to significantly improve public access to green spaces in east Bengaluru and ease pressure on existing parks in the city. **— BMB**

Government officials walk through the NGEF site where convention centres, an incubation hub and cultural spaces are planned alongside green development

DID YOU KNOW?



Russia has announced plans to build a power plant on the Moon by 2036 to support its lunar exploration programme and a joint Russian-Chinese research station, as global competition over the Moon intensifies. Roscosmos, Russia's state space corporation, said it has signed a contract with the Lavochkin Association to develop the facility. While it did not explicitly label the plant as nuclear, Roscosmos confirmed the involvement of Rosatom and the Kurchatov Institute, strongly indicating a nuclear reactor. The power source would support lunar rovers, scientific observatories and infrastructure at the proposed International Lunar Research Station. The announcement comes as Russia seeks to reclaim its stature in space exploration after setbacks, including the crash of the Luna-25 mission in 2023 and growing competition from the United States and China. The United States has similar ambitions, with NASA planning to deploy a lunar nuclear reactor by 2030 to sustain long-term human presence. While nuclear weapons are banned in space, nuclear energy systems are permitted under international rules, provided safety standards are met.

— Reuters

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9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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India debunks fake claims of talks with Somaliland, denies recognition move

The Claim: Viral social media posts claimed that India's Prime Minister held official talks with the Somaliland President and that India was preparing to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent sovereign state.
Fact: India's Ministry of External Affairs categorically denied the claims, stating no such meeting occurred, no recognition was planned, and reports of Somalia recalling its ambassador were entirely false.

India on Saturday dismissed as false a series of social media posts claiming that the President of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland had held official talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that New Delhi was preparing to recognise Somaliland as a sovereign state. Responding to the viral claims, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) FactCheck unit issued a clear denial on X, stating, "Fake news alert! The posts below are fake!" The unit clarified that no such meeting had taken place and that reports suggesting India was moving towards recognising Somaliland were entirely baseless.

The clarification followed the circulation of screenshots and posts that falsely portrayed formal-level engagement between Prime Minister Modi and Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi. Some posts also claimed that Somalia had recalled its ambassador to India in protest against the alleged recognition move. The MEA FactCheck unit rejected these reports as well, reiterating that the online content had no factual basis. The issue has drawn attention because of Somaliland's long-standing and sensitive political status. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia on May 18, 1991, following the Somali Civil War. Despite functioning with its own government, currency and military, it has not been widely recognised by the international community. Israel formally acknowledged Somaliland as a sovereign state on December 26, 2025, becoming the first country to do so.

Post
REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND
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X.com
Breaking: Historic moment!
The President of the Republic of Somaliland holds official talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on mutual Recognition of Somaliland by the world's largest democracy is imminent.
Meanwhile, Somalia recalls its ambassador to India, Mr. Odawaa (a Somaliland native), over alleged treason for assisting Somaliland-India relations—right after Israel's groundbreaking recognition. He then flew straight to Somaliland and defected.
In a masterful diplomatic chess move, Hargeisa checkmates Mogadishu on the global stage.
FAKE
FAKE

Amid growing international debate, Somaliland has denied allegations that it agreed to host Israeli military facilities or resettle displaced Palestinians from Gaza in exchange for recognition. In a statement cited by Al Jazeera, Somaliland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said its engagement with Israel was "purely diplomatic" and conducted "in full respect of international law."

The denial followed remarks by Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who claimed Somaliland had accepted conditions including hosting a military base along the Gulf of Aden, resettling Palestinians, and joining the Abraham Accords. While Somaliland has rejected these specific claims, it has publicly acknowledged plans to join the Abraham Accords.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has confirmed that Somaliland would join the Accords, describing it as a "democratic, moderate country." Somalia has warned that Israel's recognition could destabilise the Horn of Africa, triggering protests across several Somali cities. The African Union and the European Union have reiterated support for Somalia's territorial integrity. Observers say misinformation around diplomatic moves highlights geopolitical tensions in the Horn of Africa and the need for verified sources. **— ANI**

Festive kites, fatal strings haunt B'luru skies

Widespread lack of awareness about banned manja and safer alternatives continues causing ecological damage, increasing bird injuries and wildlife suffering across city

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A survey conducted by a city-based animal rescue centre has revealed that a majority of Bengaluru residents remain unaware of the Karnataka government's ban on Chinese dor or manja and other synthetic kite-flying threads coated with glass or harmful substances.

The community survey was carried out by the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) among more than 750 participants across the city. When respondents were asked whether they were aware of the government's restriction on the use of manja, over 66 per cent said they were either unsure or completely unaware of the ban.

Experts say a ban on paper means little without sustained public awareness and strict enforcement. They stress that effective implementation, along with accessible channels for reporting violations, is crucial to bridging the gap between policy and practice on the ground.

"Enforcement helps reinforce awareness, but empowering citizens with clear ways to report violations is equally important. Without the ability to act, people eventually stop caring. Chinese manja is largely used in a few localised pockets in the city, often by children who are unaware of the consequences," said Thirumalesh S, senior wildlife rescuer at ARRC.

In October 2024, the Karnataka government issued a notification reiterating the ban on Chinese manja and other harmful kite-flying threads. A total ban on Chinese dor or manja and similar threads had earlier been imposed in 2016. However, poor enforcement and limited public awareness have led to the continued use of Chinese manja even nearly a decade after it was declared illegal.

Hospitals report rising wildlife injuries linked to synthetic kite strings

> **"Chinese manja is largely used in a few localised pockets in the city, often by children who are unaware of the consequences** –Thirumalesh S, Senior Wildlife Rescuer, ARRC

ARRC volunteers say they have been witnessing a rise in manja-related wildlife casualties well before the Sankranti kite-flying season. Over recent months, rescues linked to kite strings have increased sharply. In the last quarter alone, ARRC rescued 1,560 birds, accounting for 43.16 per cent of the total 3,614 manja-related rescues recorded during the year.

"What is especially alarming is the diversity of species being affected. In addition to common urban birds, we are recording increasing casualties among migratory raptors and wetland species, including Booted Eagles, Greater Cormorants and Ibises," said Subiksha Venkatesh, lead wildlife rehabilitator at ARRC.

People for Animals (PFA) Wildlife Hospital has also reported a rise in manja-related rescues as the kite-flying season approaches. In December, the hospital treated 81 birds for injuries caused by kite strings. Sixty-one such cases were reported in November and 55 in October. In 2025 alone, as many as 790 birds were brought to the hospital with manja-related injuries.

"The number of cases is going up. We are continuing awareness campaigns among schoolchildren about the ill effects of Chinese manja," said Dr (Colonel) Nawaz Shariff, chief veterinarian at PFA Wildlife Hospital.

The ARRC survey also found that more than 40 per cent of participants were unaware of alternative materials that can be used instead of glass-coated thread for kite flying. Experts say this lack of awareness is a result of limited availability of safer alternatives, unchecked sale of banned threads and absence of mandatory labelling.

Synthetic manja continues to be marketed within kite-flying circles as a high-performance product, while ecological costs remain invisible to users. Experts argue that expecting children or casual consumers to make ethical choices in such an environment is unrealistic without intervention.

"Clear labelling, regulated sales and sustained public communication, supported by visible promotion of safer alternatives at points of sale, are essential to drive meaningful change," added Venkatesh.

Authorities face mounting pressure to act before festive kite flying triggers another surge in injuries.

No clearance, no digging: City warns

Road-cutting without approval will no longer be taken lightly in Bengaluru. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Thursday warned that any agency digging up roads without mandatory clearance will face penalties and criminal booking. At a coordination meeting with BESCOM, BWSSB, KPTCL, GAIL and other agencies, Rao said permissions must be obtained only through the 'Marks' software, failing which strict action will follow. He also instructed civic bodies to clear applications quickly, ensure time-bound completion of works and restore roads to proper condition after digging.

Pushing for smoother urban mobility, Rao directed officials to fast-track last-mile connectivity projects such as feeder buses, parking zones, skywalks and bus shelters across the city. To keep footpaths clean, five water jetting machines will be procured and deployed by city corporations. Joint inspections have been ordered to resolve bottlenecks in white-topping and utility works, while agencies were told to curb illegal parking near metro stations. **–BMB**

Parking clarity rule to aid homebuyers

Parking fights are fast becoming one of the biggest pain points for apartment owners in Bengaluru, with over 30 percent of complaints to K-RERA linked to parking disputes. From unclear slot allocation to mismatched promises at possession, homebuyers often end up with inconvenient or unusable parking spaces. The regulator now plans to address this by making it mandatory for builders to clearly spell out parking details in sale deeds.

K-RERA chairman K Rakesh Singh said builders will be required to specify exact parking slot numbers, sizes and locations, supported by approved parking layouts. The authority is holding consultations with CREDAI and leading developers to bring uniformity in sale agreements. The move is expected to reduce disputes arising from open or poorly designed parking areas, a common grievance among residents, and provide long-awaited clarity and relief to Bengaluru flat buyers citywide. **–BMB**

Landowners resist Peripheral Ring Road

The Bengaluru Business Corridor, also known as the peripheral ring road project, is facing strong resistance from landowners, with over a thousand farmers and residents filing objections and mounting a legal challenge to the government's compensation formula. Affected families insist compensation must strictly follow the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, warning that any deviation would amount to grave injustice. The project requires acquisition of 2,418 acres and is expected to impact nearly 5,000 families, many of whom fear loss of land-based livelihoods.

Farmer and site owners' associations have written to HUDCO, urging it to withdraw financial support, citing legal infirmities, allegedly depressed guideline values and projected project cost exceeding Rs 27,000 crore. They argue that the original 2007 notification has lapsed under the BDA Act, rendering the project legally untenable. While the High Court continues to hear related petitions, the state cabinet has approved compensation options for landowners willing to settle without dispute, setting the stage for a tense confrontation ahead. **–BMB**

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I, Salma Jabeen Rahaman R/o #80,1st Floor,2nd Cross, lakshmi Layout B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Salma Jabeen.

I, Imran Khan Abdul R/o #79,9th Main,4th Cross, Shamanna Nagar B'lore-560026 have changed my name to Imran Khan.

I Nimisha satish R/o Flat 222, Pavani Sarovar Phase 2, Block C, Nallurahalli, Whitefield, Blore-66 Have changed my name to Nimisha Poonthiruthy Janardhanan

I, Jiwan D/O, Thakur Dalip Singh R/o 549/a, 9th A Main, 1st Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038 have changed my name to Jiwan Kaur for all purposes.

I, Muskaan Khanum S R/o #80,1st Floor,2nd Cross, lakshmi layout B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Muskaan Khanum.

IM H Ramakrishnaiah, S/Hanumaiah R/o No, 42 5th A Cross, 3rd Main Road, Near Arunodaya School Vigneshwaranagar Bangalore Karnataka-560091
My father name has been mentioned as Hanumegowda instead of Hanumaiah for all purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 02.01.2026 Sworn before Notary KC Shashikala Bengaluru.

I, MUDASSAR PASHA resident of No. 14/16, 22nd Main, 19th Cross, Ramanna Road, Near Royal School, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my minor child name from RASHID (Old Name) to RASHID MUDASSAR (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 03/1/2026 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, Pradeepa K P s/o Parameshwara K N, R/o No 208,1st c Main Road, Sri Vari Royal Apts, Mallathahalli, NGEF Layout Bangalore-560056 have changed my name to Pradeep Krishnarajapet Parameshwara for all purposes.

I, Raju Sagiraju Damodhar, S/o Sagiraju Konda Raju, R/o No. 9, Nakshatra Building, Flat No. 202, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road, Ashirwad Colony, Hormavu, Bengaluru – 560043, have changed my name to Sagiraju Damodhar for all purposes.

I, Rakesh Sangave S/o Satyagouda R/o D-1902, Kolte Patil I- Towers Exente , Konnappana Agrahara, Electronic City, Bangalore-560100. have changed my name to Rakesh Satyagouda Sangave for all purposes.

I, Nagajyoti Siriyala ,R/O Flat No -T13,Block B, Pyramid Bilberry Apts, Off Thanisandra Main Road,Chokkanahalli, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Nagajyoti Raghunath Siriyala.

I, Sowmya D/o B Venkateshaiah Dob 07/11/1993 residing at No.27 6th main 7th cross Ittamadu BSK 3rd stage Bangalore-560085 Shall henceforth be known as Sowmya V.

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CHARDHAM /DHODHAM TOUR 14 DAYS : April : 28 May : 3, 11, 18, 26 Jun : 2, 9, 18, 25 July: 9, 17, 24, 30 Aug : 8, 14, 22 Sep : 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct : 2, , 9, 16, 21
KASHI - GAYA - ALLAHABAD TOUR - 9 DAYS: Jan : 3, 15, 24 Feb : 7, 21, 26 Mar : 3, 14, 27 April : 1, 8, 15, 25 May: 1, 8, 15, 21 June : 6, 13, 24 July : 5, 14, 20, 27 Aug : 4, 10, 22 Sep: 5, 15, 21Oct : 5, 10, 17, 24 Nov: 7, 15, 23 Dec : 5, 19
MADHYA PRADESH 8 DAYS: Jan : 5, 12, 19, 26 Feb : 3, 9, 16, 23 Mar : 9, 16, 23 April : 6, 13, 20, 27 May : 4, 11, 18, 25, 31 June : 8, 15, 22, 29 July : 6, 13, 20, 27 Aug : 3, 17, 24, 31 Sep : 7, 14, 21, 28 Oct : 5, 12, 19, 26, 31 Nov : 1, 14, 21 Dec : 7, 21
GUJARATH - TOUR – 9/14 Days – Jan : 5, 12, 19 Feb : 2, 9, 16, 23 Mar : 2, 9, 16, 23 April : 6, 13, 20, 27 May : 4, 11, 18, 25 June : 8, 15, 22 July : 6, 13, 20 Aug : 10, 24 Sep : 7, 14, 21 Oct : 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov: 2, 9, 16, 23 Dec: 1, 7, 14
RAJASTHAN TOUR –14 Days : Jan : 10, 17, 24 Feb : 7, 14, 21, 28 Mar : 7, 14, 21, 28 April : 11, 18, 25, May: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 June : 13, 20, 27 July : 11, 18, 25 Aug : 15, 27 Sep : 12, 19, 26 Oct : 10, 17, 24, 31 Nov: 7, 14, 21, 28 Dec: 6, 12, 19
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 # Crack the enigma
Yash starrer 'Toxic' makers present Tara Sutaria as "enigmatic and fragile" Rebecca, first look out

Saga of devotion

JAGANMATHE AKKAMAHADEVI
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Vishnukanth BJ
- **ACTORS** Sulaksha Kaira, Vishnukanth BJ, Suchendra Prasad, Tabala Nani, and Vaijanath Biradar.
- **Duration** 156 minutes
- **Certification** U

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
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Director-cum-actor Vishnukanth, who is known for Kannada movies Dr BR Ambedkar, Sri Kshethra Kaivara Thathayya, and Ganga Kaveri, has helmed, supported and played a double role in Jaganmathe Akkamahadevi. He makes a comeback to direction after a gap of 17 years. Though the movie lacks richness and huge sets, the director has succeeded in completing it with a minimum number of artistes.

The movie, set in the 12th century, is about Mahadevi from Udutadi. Mahadevi, as an adolescent, evinces interest in reading vachanas and attends classes at the local mutt in her childhood. Mahadevi (Sulaksha Kair), dedicates herself to Channamallikarjuna. King Kaushika (Vishnukanth BJ), smitten by Mahadevi's beauty, decides to marry her. King Kaushika pressures Mahadevi's parents to convince Mahadevi to marry him. Mahadevi agrees to marry him provided he fulfills her demands. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not King Kaushika marries Mahadevi.

The movie's songs are melodious and meaningful. Music director Palani D Senapati deserves a pat on the back for his work. Cinematographer Ravi Suvarna has done a neat job behind the camera. The lack of apt sets proves a shortcoming. For example, King Kaushika, who belongs to the 12th century, is seen seated on an ordinary sofa. A few scenes in a palace are far from convincing as the palace's interiors look like those of an ordinary building. The director-cum-producer should have tried to make the sets a bit more authentic for audiences, especially those who enjoy devotional movies.

Sulaksha Kaira, as Mahadevi, walks away with all honours for her sterling performance. Vishnukanth, perhaps due to handling too many responsibilities, looks tired. Tabala Nani, Suchendra Prasad, and Vaijanath Biradar have given good supporting performances.

The movie is worth a watch for family audiences, especially those who want to know about Akka Mahadevi and her journey.

High praise

South superstar Shivarajkumar was all praises for Ranveer Singh for his performance in "Dhurandhar".

Addressing the success Press Conference of his movie "45", he appreciated the performances in the much discussed multi-starrer "Dhurandhar", especially highlighting the work of Akshaye Khanna and Ranveer.

Calling the Aditya Dhar directorial "emotionally strong", Shivarajkumar commented, "The emotions were fantastic, the making was very good, and every actor has performed exceptionally well."

Shedding light specifically on the lead actors, he said that while he thoroughly enjoyed Akshaye's performance, he found Ranveer Singh's portrayal to be extremely nuanced.

Spelling out the difference between the roles played by the two leads, he said that while Akshaye's character gave the room to explore, Ranveer's role required a subtle performance.

"Akshaye Khanna's role had a certain freedom where he could explore different shades of his character. Ranveer Singh's character, on the other hand, demanded a lot of subtlety, which is not easy to pull off. He handled it brilliantly and beautifully," Shivarajkumar said.

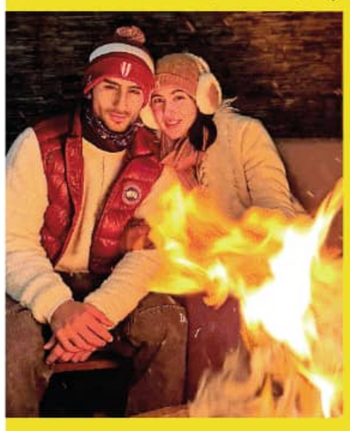
Stressing the importance of ensemble films in today's cinema, he added that multi-starrer projects are the need of the hour and help bring out diverse performances on screen. **-IANS**

Scenes from Sara's vacay with brother

Bollywood actress Sara Alia Khan, who was recently seen in 'Metro... In Dino', has shared glimpses from her recent trip.

On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures from her vacation amidst the snow. The pictures also featured her sibling, Ibrahim Ali Khan.

She wrote in the caption, "Meri Mannat, hamesha naseeb ho aisi Jannat (My wish, I always get such a heaven)".



Sara is the daughter of Saif Ali Khan and actor Amrita Singh. She belongs to the Pataudi family, her paternal grandfather was Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, former captain of the Indian cricket team and the Nawab of Pataudi. Her paternal grandmother is actor Sharmila Tagore. Sara's parents separated in 2004, and she was raised primarily by her mother.

Ibrahim is her younger brother, and she has two half-siblings, Taimur Ali Khan and Jeh Ali Khan, from Saif Ali Khan's marriage to Kareena Kapoor Khan. Sara completed her schooling in Mumbai and graduated from Columbia University, New York, with a degree in History and Political Science. She made her foray in cinema with 'Kedarnath' opposite Sushant Singh Rajput. **-IANS**

Finn on early age stardom: No one can prepare anyone for it

Actor Finn Wolfhard, popularly known for playing Mike Wheeler in "Stranger Things" has spoken about his return to the "IT" universe and shooting to stardom at an early age.

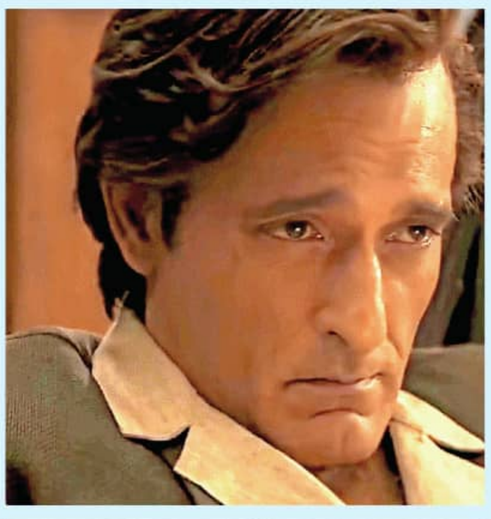
With the first season of spin-off series IT: Welcome to Derry now finished, Wolfhard has hinted that he could return to the IT franchise in the future. He played Richie Tozier in the 2017 film It and its 2019 sequel It: Chapter Two. His character's influence is reflected in the 2025 spin-off series, keeping Richie's legacy alive in the IT universe.

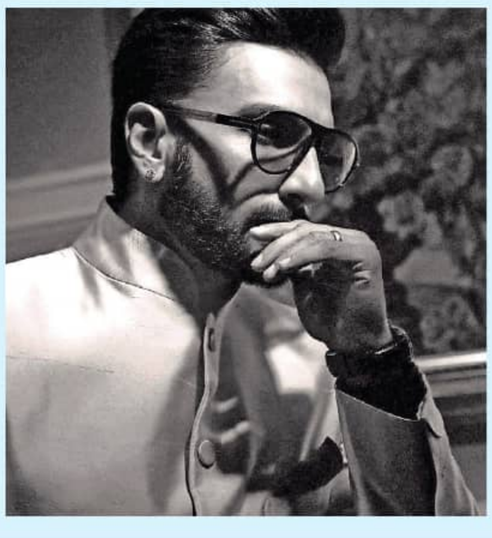
Speaking about whether he was aware a picture of Richie would appear in Welcome to Derry, Wolfhard said: "I knew that years ago, actually. When they first started thinking about that show, it was probably 2021."

"(Creators) Barbara and Andy Muschietti both told me, 'You're involved.' Yeah, I'm connected. I think there's something else that will come up eventually that I'm excited for people to see."

Reflecting on shooting to stardom at a young age, the actor said it had been a surreal and difficult experience growing up in the spotlight, reports female-first.co.uk. He said: "No one can prepare anyone for it. It was incredibly exciting ... but there was a period in my teenage years where it was just hard."

IT, which is based on author Stephen King's 1986 horror novel of the same name, follows a group of bullied kids known as the Losers' Club in the town of Derry as they band together after children begin disappearing without a trace. **-IANS**





₹52 crore+ lost to cyber frauds over 6 years

Report reveals Maharashtra biggest loser, with K'taka close behind

Indians lost over Rs 52,976 crore to various frauds and cheating cases over the past six years, with Maharashtra recording the highest monetary losses in such offences, according to reports.

Losses of about Rs 19,813 crore and 2,177,524 cheating-related complaints were recorded in 2025, according to data from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) that compiled information from National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

Reported losses in 2024 was Rs 22,849.49 crore with 1,918,852 complaints, and smaller sums were recorded in earlier years pointing to a worrying surge in financial crimes such as investment traps, digital arrest, online scams and banking frauds.

Analysts attributed the sharp rise to rapid digitisation, increased online transactions and more sophisticated scam networks.

IN FOCUS
Cyber traps

The data showed Maharashtra suffered the largest monetary losses from cheating cases last year at Rs 3,203 crore with 2,833,20 complaints, followed by Karnataka at Rs 2,413 crore and 2,132,28 complaints, according to a report from Indian Express.

Tamil Nadu posted losses of 1,897 crore and 1,232,90 complaints, Uttar Pradesh at Rs 1,443 crore and 2,752,64 complaints; and Telangana with Rs 1,372 crore of losses and 95,000 complaints, were among top five states accounting for more than half the national total, the report said.

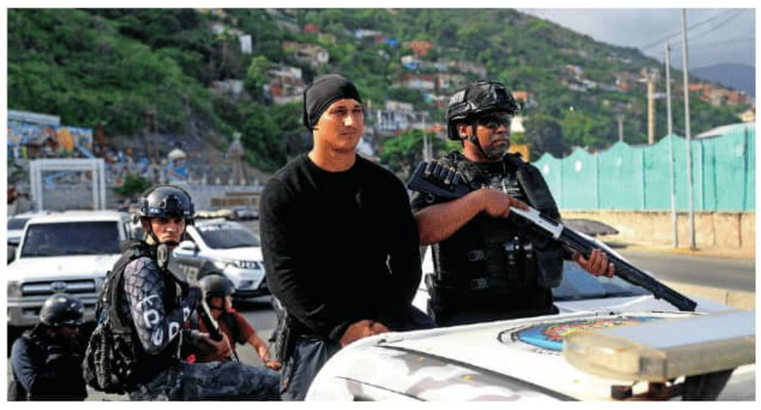
"Out of Rs 19,812 crore, 77 per cent was lost in the name of investment schemes, 8 per cent lost through digital arrest, 7 per cent via credit card fraud, 4 per cent in sextortion, 3 per cent in e-commerce fraud and 1 per cent to app/malware based fraud," data showed.

Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS) data showed that around 21 crore cyber fraud complaints were reported in 2025 with 45 per cent of them originating from Southeast Asian countries – Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.

The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has been launched to enable citizens to report complaints relating to various categories of cybercrime, with a special focus on offences targeting women and children. A dedicated cybercrime helpline number, 1930, provides immediate assistance to victims of online financial frauds. **–IANS**

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Maduro captured at his home



Venezuelan ruling party leader Nahum Fernández told The Associated Press that Nicolás Maduro and his wife were at their home within the Ft. Tiuna military installation when they were captured.

"That's where they bombed," he said. "And, there, they carried out what we could call a kidnapping of the president and the first lady of the country."

The United States hit Venezuela with a "large-scale strike" early Saturday and said its president had been captured and flown out of the country after months of intense pressure on Nicolás Maduro's government — an extraordinary nighttime operation announced by President Donald Trump on social media hours after the attack.

The legal authority for the attack, and whether Trump consulted Congress beforehand, was not immediately clear. The stunning American military action, which plucked a nation's sitting leader from office, echoed the U.S. invasion of Panama that led to the surrender and seizure of its leader, Manuel Antonio Noriega, in 1990 — exactly 36 years ago Saturday.

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, would face charges after an indictment in New York. **AP**

Myanmar polls: Military-backed party leads

Myanmar's military-appointed election body has begun announcing the winners of the first phase of its three-part general election, saying that the military-backed party has won the majority of seats, as widely expected.

Critics of the current system say the election is designed to add a facade of legitimacy to the status quo. They charge the polls are neither free nor fair because of the exclusion of major parties and government repression of dissenters. Opposition groups have called for a boycott by voters.

The military government said Wednesday that more than 6 million people — about 52% of the more than 11 million eligible voters in the first phase of elections held Dec. 28 — cast ballots, calling the turnout a decisive success. The Union Election Commission announced in the state-run Myanma Alinn newspaper that the Union Solidarity and Development Party, or USDP, won 38 seats in the 330-seat Pyithu Hluttaw lower house, though many seats from the election held on Dec.28 have yet to be declared. A separate announcement named USDP's leader, Khin Yi, as the winning representative from his constituency in the capital, Naypyitaw. **AP**

'Rioters to be put in place'

Iran's supreme leader insisted Saturday that "rioters must be put in their place" after a week of protests that have shaken the Islamic Republic, likely giving security forces a green light to aggressively put down the demonstrations.

The first comments by 86-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei come as violence surrounding the demonstrations sparked by Iran's ailing economy has killed at least 10 people. The protests show no sign of stopping and follow U.S. President Donald Trump warning Iran on Friday that if Tehran "violently kills peaceful protesters," the United States "will come to their rescue."

While it remains unclear how and if Trump will intervene, his comments sparked an immediate, angry response, with officials within the theocracy threatening to target American troops in the Mideast. **AP**

Padikkal's ton powers K'taka

Out-of-favour India batter Devdutt Padikkal struck his fourth century in Vijay Hazare Trophy this season as star-studded Karnataka registered an 80-run win against Tripura to secure their fifth victory in Group A here on Saturday.

Domestic heavyweight Padikkal struck a 120-ball 108 as Karnataka made a mammoth 332 for 7 and then dismissed Tripura for 252 with an over to spare for the facile win.

With two more league games to be played, Karnataka are nicely perched at the top with 20 points, followed by Madhya Pradesh (16), Jharkhand (12) and Kerala (12). Tripura are on eight points, followed by Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan on four points each.

The 25-year-old, who, within a span of just 10 days, has scored more than 500 runs in five games, was on song as he held the innings together after Karnataka were two down for just six runs. Both skipper Mayank Agarwal (5) and Karun Nair (0) departed in the third over, done in by the pace generated by Tripura's Abhijit Sarkar (4/50) with the new ball. **PTI**

KKR move on Bangladeshi player raises eyebrows

The Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) decision to release Bangladesh pacer Muswtafizur Rahman from their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 squad, following instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has triggered mixed reactions from political leaders across party lines. While some leaders welcomed the move, citing national sentiment and security concerns, others criticised the decision, arguing that politics should not interfere with sports.

Earlier on Saturday, BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed that the board had directed the three-time IPL champions to release the Bangladeshi fast bowler and permitted the franchise to name a replacement player. "The BCCI has instructed KKR to release Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their squad, while also allowing the franchise to appoint a replacement," Saikia said.

Reacting to this, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge questioned the rationale behind the decision and the timing of the rule. "The BCCI and franchise owners framed this rule. Now the BCCI is not explaining anything, and the matter has been left unresolved. The person who framed the rule is not being called a traitor, while the one who follows it is being labelled a traitor. Why was this rule not introduced earlier?" he added. **IANS**

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Strong Indian presence in Bengaluru Open

The stage is set for an exciting week of world-class tennis at the 10th edition of the Bengaluru Open, following the main draw ceremony held at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. The ATP Challenger 125 tournament will get underway on Monday, January 5.

India No. 1 Sumit Nagal will open his campaign against homegrown talent SD Prajwal Dev, while top seed Pedro Martinez of Spain has been drawn against a qualifier in the first round, as per a release from Bengaluru Open.

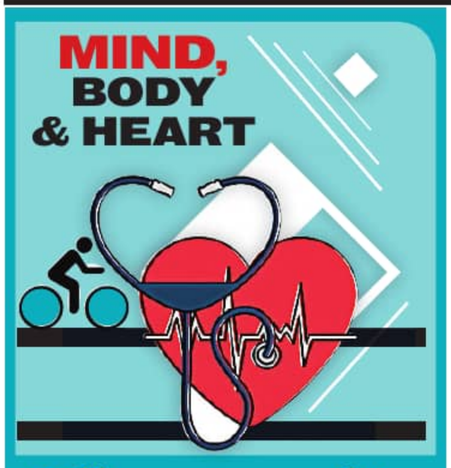
Seasoned campaigners, including second seed Harold Mayot, third seed Jay Clarke and fourth seed Lloyd Harris, also find themselves in competitive sections of the draw.

There will be a strong Indian representation in the main draw, with six Indian players competing, underscoring the tournament's continued commitment to providing domestic talent with opportunities at the highest international level.

Alongside Nagal and Prajwal Dev, the Indian contingent includes India No. 2 Aryan Shah, India No. 3 Karan Singh, and wild card entrants Dhakshineswar Suresh and Manas Damne. **ANI**

HEALTH TIP: Reducing night-time scrolling and alerts can improve sleep quality and bedtime routines

Deep conditioning is essential for curly hair at least once a week, and twice if your hair feels especially dry or brittle



All you need to know about...

Exercise & bowel cancer

10 mins also helps
Short bursts of energetic activity for 10 minutes daily could not only increase your fitness levels, but also help fight bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, according to a study.

Intense activity
The study by researchers at Newcastle University showed that short and intense exercise activity can trigger rapid molecular changes in the bloodstream, shutting down bowel cancer growth and speeding up DNA damage repair.

Reduces inflammation
They found that exercise increases the concentration of several small molecules in the blood -- many linked to reducing inflammation, improving blood vessel function, and metabolism. When these exercise-induced molecules were applied to bowel cancer cells in the lab, the activity of more than 1,300 genes was altered, including those involved in DNA repair, energy production, and cancer cell growth.
The findings, published in the International Journal of Cancer, help explain one way exercise can protect against bowel cancer: by sending molecular signals in the bloodstream that influence the activity of genes that govern tumor growth and genome instability.
"What's remarkable is that exercise doesn't just benefit healthy tissues, it sends powerful signals through the bloodstream that can directly influence thousands of genes in cancer cells," said Dr. Sam Orange, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Exercise Physiology at Newcastle University, who led the study. The team found that exercise boosted the activity of genes that support mitochondrial energy metabolism, enabling cells to use oxygen more efficiently. At the same time, genes linked to rapid cell growth were switched off, which could reduce the aggressiveness of cancer cells, and exercise-conditioned blood promoted DNA repair, activating a key repair gene called PNKP. **–IANS**

Sweet treats

Thoughtfully festive and entirely eggless, these bakes are meant to be made without hurry

CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE CAKE

INGREDIENTS
For Cake Batter
- All-Purpose Flour: 1 cup
- Powdered Sugar: 2/3 cup
- Baking Powder: 1 tsp
- Baking Soda: 1/2 tsp
- Coffee Powder: 1 tsp
- Cocoa Powder: 1/4 cup
- Curd: 1/2 cup
- Refine Oil: 1/2 cup
- Milk: 1/2 cup

For Chocolate Ganache
- Dark Chocolate chopped: 1 cup
- Fresh Cream: 1/2 cup
- Butter: 1 tsp

To Garnish
- Dark Chocolate: 1/4 cup
- Extras
- Sugar Syrup: 2 tbsp

METHOD
- Take a 5-liter pressure cooker, put salt in it and spread it well in the base of the cooker.
- Close the cooker lid, switch on the stove and preheat the cooker for about 6-7 minutes.
- As you preheat the cooker, take a bowl and add curd and oil. Whisk this for 2-3 minutes continuously.
- Sieve all the dry ingredients and mix it into the cake batter by the cut and fold method.
- Add milk and beat for 3-4 minutes. Ensure that you do not overmix. The cake batter is now ready.
- Grease the cake tin with oil on all sides. Dust it with plain flour and sift it to ensure uniform distribution of the flour.
- Shake and tap the tin onto a plate to remove excess flour.
- Pour the prepared cake batter into the greased and dusted tin and spread it evenly.
- The pressure cooker must have heated up by now. Open the lid of the pressure cooker, place the baking tray on the cooker plate and cover it with a lid without the ring and whistle.
- Now bake the batter in the preheated pressure cooker on a low flame for about 40 to 45 minutes.
- Open the lid after the duration of baking. Take a toothpaste and check if the cake has been baked by poking the toothpick in the center of the cake. If it comes out clean, then your cake is ready.
- If the cake is not ready, bake it for another 5-6 more minutes.
- Separate the cake from the tin using a knife.
- Now, take a plate and cover the top. Flip it over and gently tap on the top so that the cake is released.
- Turn it upside down again and let the cake cool down completely.
- By that time, warm up the fresh cream a little and add chopped dark chocolate and butter. Mix this continuously for 2-3 minutes and set it aside.
- Now divide the cake into two layers by using a thread.
- Sprinkle 1 tbsp sugar syrup on each layer.
- Spread little chocolate ganache on the lower half of the cake and ensure it is spread evenly. Can do so using a palette knife.
- Sandwich the other half of the cake on top and press it gently.
- Now spread the remaining ganache evenly on top and on the sides of the cake.
- Decorate with sliced chocolates
- Keep the cake in the fridge for 2 hours.
- The chocolate truffle cake is now ready to be served.

DRY FRUIT CAKE

INGREDIENTS
- Whole Wheat Flour: 1 cup
- Semolina sooji: 3/4 cup
- Cinnamon Powder: 1 tsp
- Baking Powder: 1 tsp
- Baking Soda: 1 tsp
- Curd: 1 cup
- Sugar: 1 cup
- Oil: 100 gm
- Vanilla Essence: 1 tsp
- Cashew: 75 gm
- Raisins: 75 gm
- Dates: 75 gm
- Almonds: 75 gm

METHOD
- Soak all the dry fruits overnight.
- Drain the excess water and coarsely grind the dry fruits and set it aside.
- Take a large 5-liter pressure cooker. Use a cooker plate to keep distance between the cooker base and the baking tray. This will ensure that the cake will not be exposed to direct heat and get burned from the base.
- Keep the cooker plate on the cooker ensuring it does not touch any place else in the cooker.
- Close the cooker lid, switch on the stove and preheat the cooker for about 6-7 minutes.
- As you preheat the cooker, take a bowl, add wheat flour, sooji, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon powder. Fold this well and keep it aside.
- Take another bowl and add curd, sugar, vanilla essence, vegetable oil and coarsely grind the dry fruits and fold it gently.
- Now add the dry ingredients into the wet ones and mix everything well. However, ensure that you do not overmix.
- Now, grease the cake tin with oil on all sides. Dust it with wheat flour and sift it to ensure uniform distribution of flour.
- Shake and tap the tin onto a plate to remove excess flour.
- Pour the prepared cake batter into the greased and dusted tin and spread it evenly.
- Top it up with some more chopped dry fruits.
- The pressure cooker must have been heated up by now. Open it and place the baking tin on the cooker plate. Cover it with the lid without the ring and whistle.
- Now bake in the preheated pressure cooker on low flame for 40 to 45 minutes.
- After 40-45 minutes of baking, open the cooking lid.
- Take a toothpick and check if the cake is baked by simply poking the center of the cake with the toothpick.
- If the toothpick comes out clean, then your cake is ready. If it is not, you need to bake for another 5-6 more minutes.
- Separate the cake from the baking tin using a knife.
- Now take a plate and cover the top of the baking tin and flip it over. Gently tap the tin on the top so that the cake is released.
- Turn it upside down again.
- The dry fruit cake is now ready to be served.

Recipes from The Tastes of India podcast on Audible

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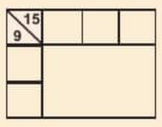
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

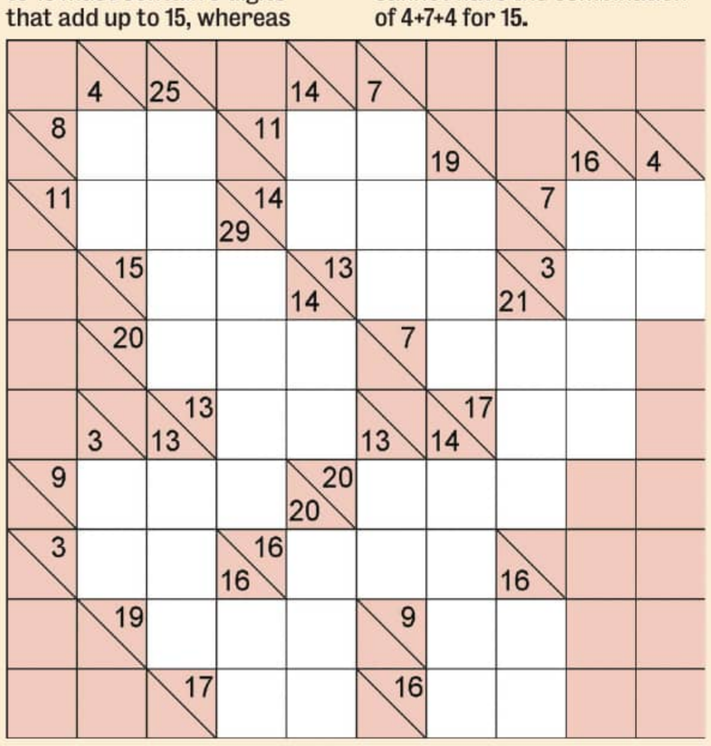
[(64^40) * (4^30) / (16^30 * (8^50)] = ?

Kakuro

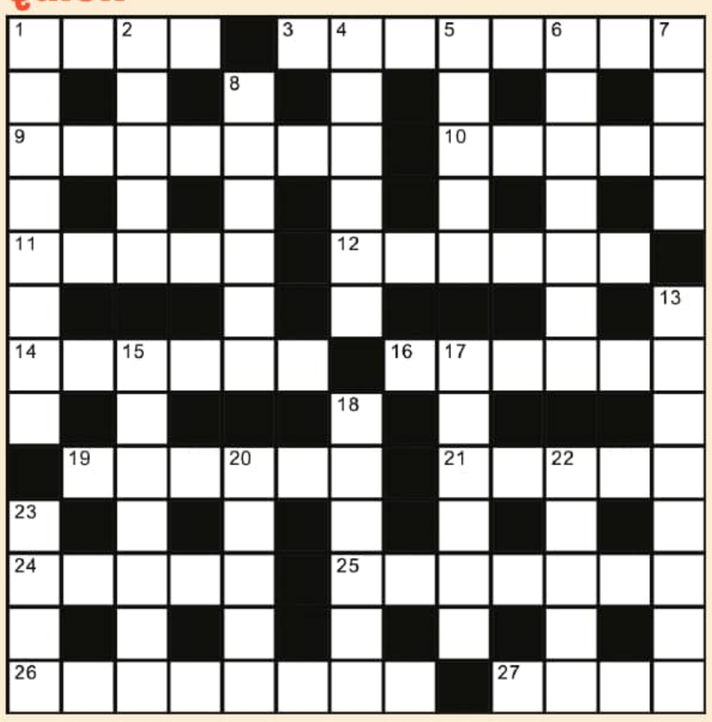
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Distinctive air (4)
3 Now Zimbabwe (8)
9 Unsettle (7)
10 English river (5)
11 Formula 1 driver ____ Hamilton (5)
12 Capital of Greece (6)
14 Approximately (6)
16 Reduce to a lower grade (6)
19 Use it to communicate in Hyderabad? (6)
21 'Fiddler on the Roof' actor (5)
24 Fragrance or attar (5)
25 Competitor (7)
26 Onlooker (6-2)
27 Nile snakes? (4)

DOWN

1 Omar of J&K (8)
2 Stitch again (5)
4 Bangalore lake-"Blab he"anagram (6)
5 Dump (5)
6 Investigate or examine (3,4)
7 One of the singing voices (4)
8 Dons or wears (4,2)
13 Removes air from a tyre? (8)
15 They are first out to bat (7)
17 Thing with a distinct existence (6)
18 Magnificent (6)
20 Free from restraint (5)
22 Dramas (5)
23 Letters of urgency (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS D

BHER JI YZRM VHX WHM'S ZPER SH FR YJSZ PMHSZRC URCIHM SH SHXLZ SZRJC ZRPCS!

Linemaro

If your smile were a lamp, this whole room would need no lights

Mindchow

We do not remember days. We remember moments

Joke of the day

The museum boasted owning the original version of Beethoven's unfinished basement

Loop

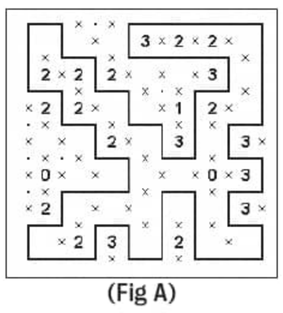
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

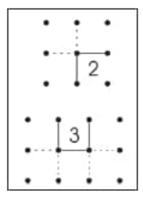
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

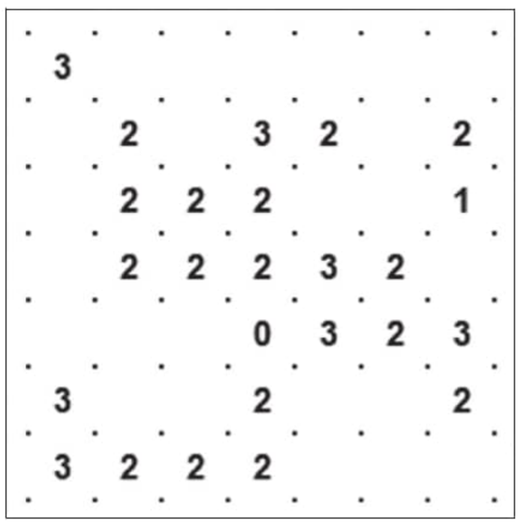
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



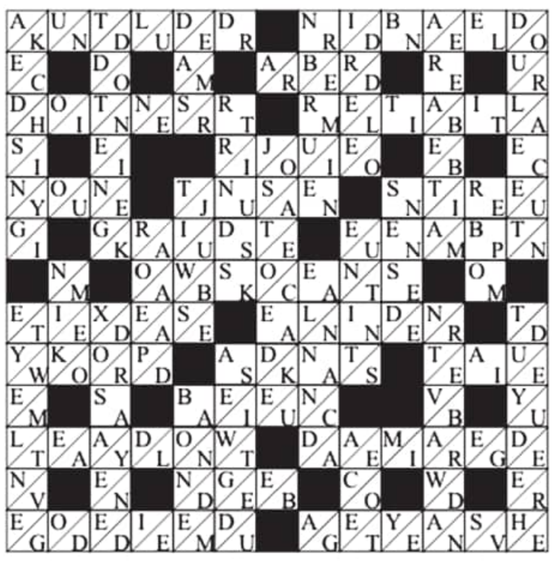
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



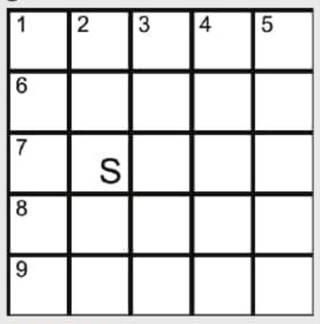
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

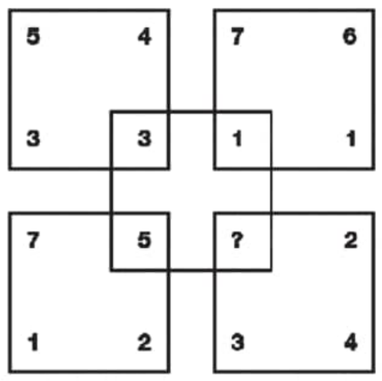
1 Tsars; 6 Leary; 7 Purus; 8 H Gala; 9 Was Sn

DOWN

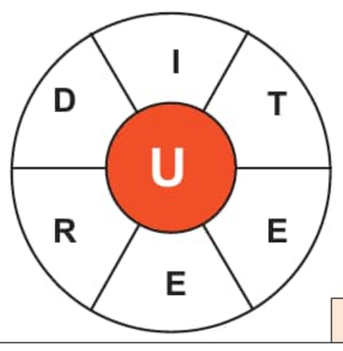
1 Rust G; 2 Wears; 3 La Lau; 4 As ran; 5 HS Spy

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1		9		3		7	
		9		1		5		
7			8		2			1
		8		4		1		
4								2
		5		2		7		
1			5		6			4
		6		8		9		
	2		4		7		1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 8

3 6 8 9

Medium

= 18

8 4 2 2

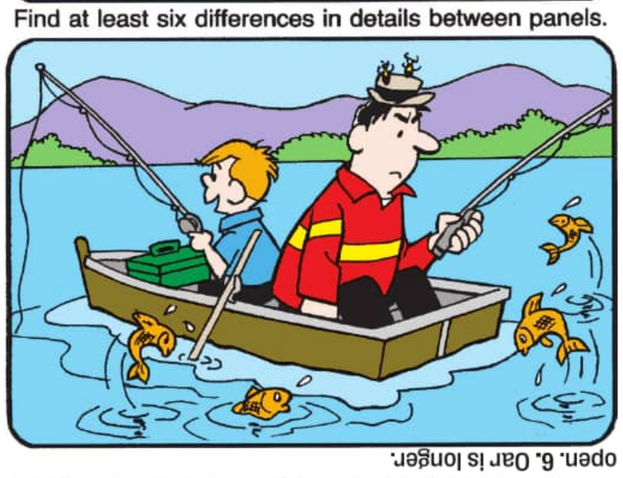
Hard

= 17

1 6 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



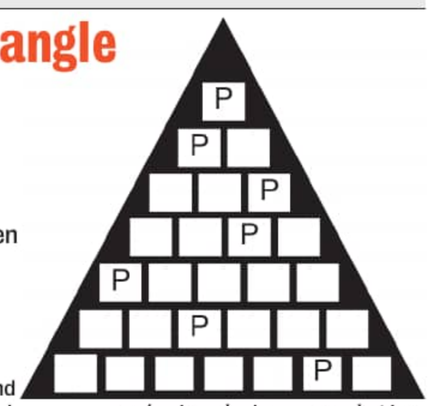
Differences: 1. Stripe on sleeve is lower. 2. Bush is different. 3. Fish is moved. 4. Nose is different. 5. Mouth is open. 6. Oar is longer.

Riddler

I cover what is real and hide what is true, But sometimes I bring out the courage in you. What am I?

Alpha triangle

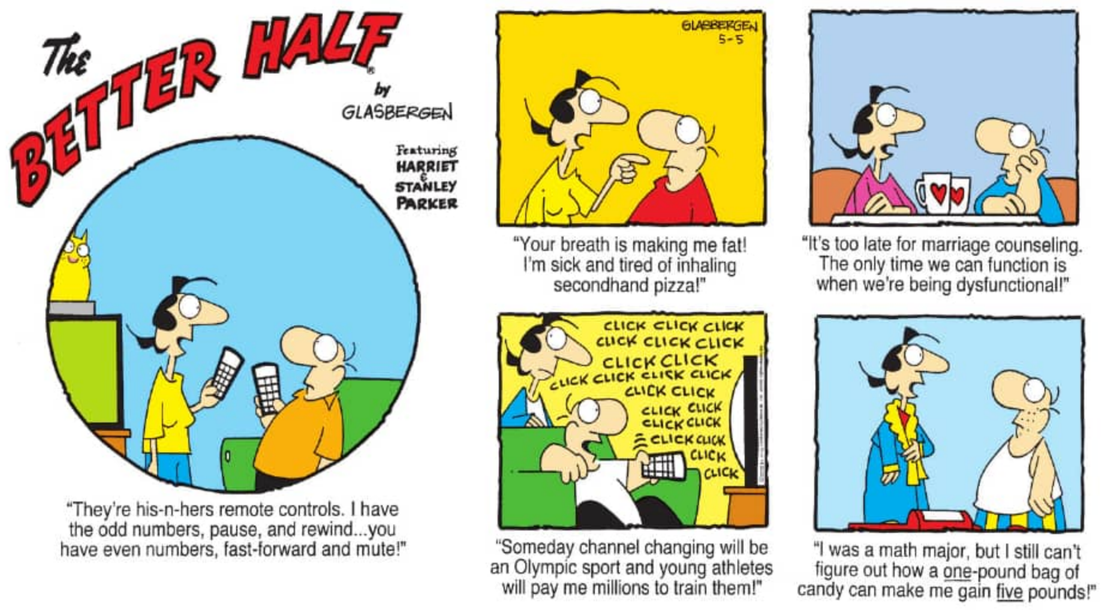
1 Parking sign
2 Dad
3 Drain
4 Tops
5 Single steps
6 Antics
7 Military policemen



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"They're his-n-hers remote controls. I have the odd numbers, pause, and rewind...you have even numbers, fast-forward and mute!"
GLASBERGEN 5-5
"Your breath is making me fat! I'm sick and tired of inhaling secondhand pizza!"
"It's too late for marriage counseling. The only time we can function is when we're being dysfunctional!"
CLICK CLICK CLICK
"Someday channel changing will be an Olympic sport and young athletes will pay me millions to train them!"
"I was a math major, but I still can't figure out how a one-pound bag of candy can make me gain five pounds!"

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
DAD! WE'LL RACE YOU AROUND THE BLOCK!
YEAH!
GUYS...
...I JUST FINISHED MOWING THE YARD
EDGING THE SIDEWALK
TRIMMING THE BUSHES
SWEEPING OUT THE GARAGE
CHANGING THE SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES...
...AND I REALLY JUST WANT TO CATCH MY BREATH.
LET'S GO SEE IF MOM'S NOT BEING OLD TODAY.
YEAH.

FLASH GORDON
THE HEADS OF THE SO-CALLED ALLIED MONGOTHIC NATIONS ARE ALL GATHERED HERE TODAY.
I SEE LOUD, OLD VULTAN... AGELESS, WICKED AZURA... ICY QUEEN FRIA AND HER UN-SEASONED STEAK OF A CONSORT, PRINCE RONAL...
THEY'VE ALL BEEN INVITED TO A WEDDING, YOU SEE.
I WASN'T-- BUT I'M HERE JUST THE SAME.
THEY SAY PRINCE BARIN ENTERED THE PALACE THIS MORNING LOOKING AN AWFUL FRIGHT.
IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN OFF ON A HUNTING TRIP...
...BEFORE HIS WEDDING TO PRINCESS AURA.
NOW, I HEARD THERE WAS A COOLNESS BETWEEN THEM...
...BUT, AT THE APPOINTED HOUR, HERE THEY ARE -- ALL DRESSED AND PERFUMED AT THE ROYAL ALTAR OF TOA.
AND I, WELL... I JUST HAVE TO LAUGH.
BECAUSE I AM MING THE SECOND!
OLDEST LIVING SON OF THE FALLEN EMPEROR!
WITH A FAR BETTER CLAIM ON THE THRONE THAN MY FAITHLESS SISTER.
SHE HAS HER THUG EJECT ME-- GORDON THE ALIEN THEY SAY KILLED OUR FATHER.
I TELL HIM TO ENJOY HIS POWER OVER ME WHILE HE HAS IT...
...FOR I WON'T SIT BY AS MY SISTER STEALS MY THRONE.
MARK THESE WORDS: MING II IS ON THE RISE.
NEXT: THE ROYAL RECEPTION

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This is a pivotal year for establishing greater emotional security and finding a true sense of belonging. Home and family life will take centre stage, offering profound satisfaction and renewal. Trust your intuition when making important life choices. A quiet inner strength will help you overcome any challenges and manifest a harmonious environment.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

A welcome sense of calm and clarity settles over your mind today. Expect financial health to significantly improve through work incentives. Singles may meet an ideal partner. Seize growth opportunities confidently and plan your next professional milestone now.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

The moon blessing makes achieving your goals smooth and easy today. Relationships improve as couples resolve misunderstandings, bringing harmony. Children show increased focus on studies. Take small, meaningful steps forward using this positive, achieving energy.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

You feel inspired to explore a joyful new hobby for mental relaxation. While professional demands are heavy, manage your time wisely to stay balanced. Health concerns ease, boosting energy, Attend to family duties, especially parents, with care.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Trust your sharp intuition to guide significant decisions today. Property or real estate investments are highly favourable for future returns. Personal life thrives, making it a good time for serious relationship commitments. Trust your on-point instincts.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

A major surge of energy propels you to focus on ambitious, long-term goals. Financial changes are positive and begin to manifest today. Stressful personal challenges start to ease. Set powerful intentions; you can manifest your greatest dreams.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Good health and happiness fuel an optimistic. Evaluate lii your five-year plan and take concrete, deliberate steps now. Pay attention to opportunities that offer sustainable, steady gains.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Your social charm shines, making you the centre of attention professionally and personally. Networking opens doors. Offer your romantic partner extra emotional support. Investments are favourable, but analyse all your options first.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Reviewing financial plans and past investments will likely yield positive gains today. Singles may find a deep connection. Don't overburden yourself; take time for necessary rest and rejuvenation. Enjoy deeper emotional intimacy with your partner.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Expect personal and professional responsibilities to pile up, testing your resilience. Your partner and children's education require attention and emotional support. Balance your time across multiple tasks. You possess the spirit to power through.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

You feel mentally and physically refreshed, with prior health issues improving. Prioritise tasks effectively, as time management is crucial to avoid disruption. Juggling multiple projects requires small breaks and organisation. Stay organised for maximum progress.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

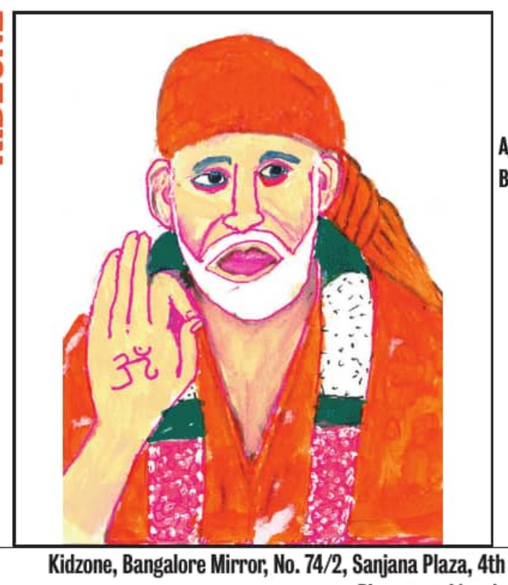
Your quick, sharp mind offers clarity for confidently making key decisions today. Innovative ideas emerge that could lead to financial gain soon. Don't hesitate to take initiative; your insights pave the way for long-term success.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Your strong professional network enhances efficiency and goal achievement through teamwork. Blessings from elders guide significant life decisions, like settling down. Look out for lucky signs; even simple details like the letter M hold significance.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ayush, Bengaluru

Natasha, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

=[(2^6*40) * (2^2*30) / (2^4*30) * (2^3*50)]
=[(2^240) * (2^60) / (2^120) * (2^150)]
=[(2^240+60) / (2^120+150)]
=[(2^300) / (2^270)]
=2^300-270 = 2^30

BULL'S EYE

duet, ERUDITE, etude, rude, true

FAST FIVE

T	R	A	S	S
R	E	L	A	Y
U	S	U	R	P
G	A	L	A	H
S	W	A	N	S

STRIKE OUT

A	N	T	L	E	R	R	I	B	A	L	D			
C	O	M		R	E	D		R		U				
I		I		R	O	U	E		B	C				
H	O	N	E	S	T		R	E	T	A	I	L		
N	O	N		J	U	A	N		S	I	R	E		
G		G	R	I	S	T		U	N	A	P	T		
T	E	X	A	S		A	L	I	E	N		T		
N		O	B	S	C	E	N	E		M				
W	O	R	D		S	K	A	T		E	A	U		
E		A		B	E	E	N		V		Y			
L	A	Y	L	O	W		D	A	M	A	G	E		
V		E		D	E	B		C		D		R		
E	D	D	I	E	D		A	T	E	A	S	E		

QUICK

P	A	S	S	E	R	B	Y		A	S	P	S		
A		R		I		R		Y		E				
S	C	E	N	T		E	N	T	R	A	N	T		
A		N		N		P		I		L		A		
	T	E	L	U	G	U		T	O	P	O	L		
H		P		S		N						F		
A	R	O	U	N	D		D	E	M	O	T	E		
L				O		L			T			D		
L	E	W	I	S		A	T	H	E	N	S			
U		E		T		B		C		I		O		
D	I	S	T	U	R	B		T	R	E	N	T		
B		E		P		E		I		E		L		
A	U	R	A		R	H	O	D	E	S	I	A		

ALPHA TRIANGLE

P, Pa, Sap, Caps, Paces, Capers, Redcaps.

SUDOKU

8	2	3	4	9	7	6	1	5
5	4	6	2	8	1	9	3	7
1	9	7	5	3	6	2	8	4
9	6	5	1	2	8	7	4	3
4	3	1	6	7	9	8	5	2
2	7	8	3	4	5	1	6	9
7	5	4	8	6	2	3	9	1
3	8	9	7	1	4	5	2	6
6	1	2	9	5	3	4	7	8

MENSA PUZZLE

6. The numbers in each square, including the middle one, add up to 15.

QUOTE UNCODE

Love is when you don't have to be with another person to touch their heart!

RIDDLER

A mask

GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 8 + 6 - 9 = 8
Medium
8 x 4 \ 2 + 2 = 18
Hard
3 x 8 - 1 - 6 = 17

LOOP

KAKURO

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Take risk, break patterns

Tisca points out what is wrong with Bollywood as of now

Actor-director Tisca Chopra, Bollywood follows a certain pattern, and is afraid of taking risks, giving due credit on the ground level, and that makes the entire process and product very shallow.

During a recent conversation with Bollywood Bubble, Tisca was asked what can be changed in Bollywood to make the process easier for every filmmaker to reach a wider audience. This was asked in the context of a pattern that theatrical and OTT releases see, where big banner movies and shows are given more preference than others. Speaking on the subject, Chopra said, "The problem is that we are watering the fruits and not the roots, which is writing. The work has become extremely shallow."

"I am not saying one can't do commercial or comedy cinema," she mentioned, highlighting that the latter genre fascinates her as well. "But it starts from the writing. You need to give time to your writers and freedom to brainstorm ideas. We don't nourish writers," she continued.

"I have a problem with projects," she added, mentioning how, despite being a creative community, Bollywood often ends up following a pattern. From adding a certain cast to infusing a song, the industry ends up following the same blueprint. According to Tisca, this happens and has been happening for years now because "Everyone is petrified. I understand there's money involved."

She elaborated that money will be invested either way, whether one falls into the same pattern trap or not, but the problem lies in the fact that "We are very afraid. Nobody wants to take a chance. People keep doing the same thing with a little twist." **–ETimes**

The answer is yes

Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon's sister, Nupur Sanon, took to her Instagram handle to confirm her engagement to long-time boyfriend Stebin Ben and offered a glimpse of a dreamy proposal. "In a world full of maybes, I found the easiest YES I've ever had to say," Nupur wrote in the caption.

Stebin could be seen on his knee as he popped the question. Multiple artists could be seen in the background, holding the placards that read, "Will you marry me?" In the pictures that followed, Nupur flaunted her ring, which featured a stunning oval-shaped diamond. **–ANI**

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